



Geneva Convention—Viet Cong Style
Story on pages 6–7



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Our Cover—These distraught faces serve as a somber introduction to the cover story on pages 6 and 7. It is a combination of a Viet Cong photo and background illustration by staff artist Bob Murray.

Cover Offended Him

Occasionally, the comments of a concerned reader seem indicative of a possible undercurrent of opinion in ASA. In such cases, we endeavor to reprint and reply. Information rather than retaliation is the purpose of our remarks.

Dear Sirs:

Your article "America the Beautiful" (Nov. 71 issue—The Hallmark) was very enlightening and informative as to the pollution crisis faced by the United States.

However, as a hunter and a National Rifle Association member, I was offended by your cover. "The Double-barreled ambush which threatens wild life" (inside cover) seems to indicate that hunters are a part of the threat to wildlife. If this was your intention, I beg you to please look at the facts. Such organizations of sportsmen and hunters as the NRA, the National Wildlife Federation, and Ducks Unlimited do more work to preserve wildlife and protect endangered species than any government agency.

I feel your "double-barreled ambush" is either a

mistake or an ambiguity.

Yours truly, SP4 Edwin L. Walston B Co, 8th RRFS

Your point is well taken. It is hard to overlook the efforts of the above mentioned organizations and their well-intentioned contributions to the preservation of wildlife.

However, the fact remains that over 200 species of animals currently are threatened with extinction. The Friends of Animals society tells us that there are more Bengal Tigers in Manhattan than in all of India—however, most are being used for throw rugs.

'Natural selection' and 'survival of the fittest' take a back seat to the injudicious hunter who insists on bagging the biggest and most handsome of the species. Certainly, wildlife suffers a threat from his barrel.

Our cover art attempted to graphically pose a rhetorical question: Does the shoe of guilt fit?

In view of the grave ecological consequences confronting us all, the responsibilities of hunter and industrialist must be more clearly defined and respected. Despite the varied reasons guiding our concern for wildlife, the net results of our efforts will be the ultimate test of our sincerity and concern.

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—That annual search is on again for the Military Wife of the Year. ASA now has an in-house favorite . . .

JEANNETTE HILLIS



KATHLEEN GIBLIN



MARCIA ALTMAN

lumerous volunteer investigators and private eyes took on a difficult task last September. They began a world-

wide search for one woman. It was a seemingly impossible task, for they were given no physical description of the woman they were looking for. They knew only that she was to be the best representative of the one and one half million wives of the men serving in the US Armed Forces. The search is still on, but will soon be successfully concluded. At least one finalist has been found and

titled. She is Mrs. Jane Richards who will be known as ASA Wife of the Year throughout 1972.

"Total involvement" would perfectly describe Jane Richards' role in Asmara. A busy mother with three children doesn't easily find time to plunge into community work. But Jane Richards, wife of Sergeant First Class Peter Richards devotes much of her time to spreading goodwill in Ethiopia. And she doesn't neglect her family in the process. As headmistress of the Asmara International School, Mrs. Richards has also strengthened the relationships between people of many countries and different cultural backgrounds while increasing the school's enrollment to its highest figure.

During her husband's first tour at Kagnew (1964-1966) Mrs. Richards began working with former ASA man, Hugh Downey, and the lalamba Association, building schools, a hospital and an orphanage for deprived children in northern Ethiopia. After returning to the States Mrs. Richards continued her work for the association by sending money and supplies. Returning to Asmara in 1970 she renewed her involvement in Ethiopian community affairs.

The four other Wife of the Year candidates also exemplify the dedication to family and community typical of military wives everywhere. Mrs. Jeannette Arlene Hillis, representing Torri Station is an active Red Cross volunteer, Cub Scout den mother and Sunday school teacher.

Mrs. Kathleen Giblen established a TOPS Club in the Ft. Devens, Mass. area. She is also involved in various youth activities.

Mrs. Betty J. Kuehni, mother of four, has spent her extra time working with the Red Cross. She is also involved in many activities as an officer of the Officers Wives' Club, Ft. Hood, Tex.

Mrs. Marcia Anne Altman is Supervisor of the Army Community Services Organization at Vint Hills Farms Station, Va. Her efforts have more than doubled the organization's staff of volunteers and her leadership has resulted in development of several important service projects.



BETTY J. KUEHNI

JANE A. RICHARDS



Who is Douglas Gibson? And why are they saying those nice things about him?

Running a mess hall is a lot like running an airline. They're both regulated to the point where *service* is the only category in which one mess hall—or airline—can distinguish itself from another.

The 303d Battalion unit mess, located at Ft. Hood, Tex., boasts of service so good that it is the best (out of 110) on post.

In a winning tradition begun over two years ago, the ASA eatery has managed to collect an impressive array of awards. Under the direction of Sergeant First Class Douglas Gibson, the mess hall has not placed lower than second in post standings since early 1970. During 1971, Gibson's crew has garnered winning honors in both non-divisional and post competition for two of the four quarters. For the first quarter FY 72, the 303d has already been named the best non-divisional mess hall on post.

The spectacular record of accomplishment is even more noteworthy when you consider all the ceremonies SFC Gibson and his team have attended. Since the presentation of the huge trophies takes place in the mess hall, Gibson has been tasked with the added responsibility of hosting the affairs . . . but he doesn't mind.

At the two most recent awards presentations, the Battalion was visited by Lieutenant General George P. Seneff,

Jr., Commanding General of III Corps and Ft. Hood, and Brigadier General Fremont B. Hodson, Jr., Chief of Staff of III Corps. Both ceremonies were attended by Lieutenant Colonel Harry C. Lesher, Bn CO, Major Creed R. Morgan, XO, Command Sergeant Major Donald C. Fields and all of the company CO's and first sergeants.

One of the most significant contributing factors to the success of the 303d dining facility is its "two team" KP system. Kitchen police work split shifts and no more than six hours at a time. Such a system has provided the regular dining hall personnel with effective, conscientious KP effort and, at the same time, has rewarded the individual KP with valuable free time during normal duty hours.

But good help isn't the whole story. Good food—and lots of it—is what makes a mess hall. Working under less than favorable conditions* the 303d and SFC Gibson employ every trick in the cook book and a lot of old fashioned ingenuity to maintain their hard earned reputation of high quality within the Ft. Hood community. Just ask the troops who eat there, day in and day out. They'll tell you what they think of Gibson's cooking . . . if you can catch them without their mouths full.

* See story on next page for a behind-the-pots peek into the operation of an Army mess facility.

cer at the 313th ASA Bn, Ft. Bragg, N.C. His remarks (excerpted here from the Sept. '71 issue of Blast Bag) could likely be applied to most mess facilities, ASA and otherwise.

Throughout my tenure as a member of the United States Army and throughout the history of all armies of the world, the quality of the food served to the soldiers has been a continual source of complaints. Typical complaints are: the food is cold, too greasy, not seasoned enough, seasoned too much, not enough variety, not enough food, poorly prepared and innumerable others.

Not trying to justify inefficiency or incompetence on anyone's part, let's take a look at our dining facility. . . .

In order to draw food, each individual is required to sign the head-

Steward to draw one meal for each and 140 show up to eat, we will run person's signature. The request for out of our planned menu and you food is submitted seven days in ad- may end up eating a substitute item. vance for the estimated requirements, which are carefully calculated using the figures and averages of past months. . . .

The figures point out one very important fact: the number of personnel decidedly throughout the month. Because the number of personnel varies from a low figure of 25 to a high of 145 per meal, the forecasts are sometimes way out of line with the requirements for the day. Since we have to submit requests (guesses) a week in advance, there is no way that mess personnel can solve the problem. The only solution is to have more people sign the headcount sheet on a more regular basis. Obviously, if we have programmed a re-

Captain Lynn Lowrance is mess offi- count sheet. This authorizes the Mess quirement for 110 people for dinner

. . . continued on page 8





SFC Doug Gibson, mess hall mentor, employs the traditional handshake to greet BG F. H. Hodson, but resorts to the ol' fraternity secret sign when welcoming LTG G. F. Seneff.





MAJ Creed R. Morgan, Bn XO (left) and SP5 Brumley, mess hall cook, are at first anxious-and then obviously pleased as LTG G. P. Seneff cuts and eats a piece of the cake.



SPOTLIGHT News from USASA Headquarters



Charge On—Just sign your name on the dotted line and . . . Ever hear that before? Well, get ready to hear it again. The Army is testing a system of credit cards that will enable a member of an open mess to use his credit privilege at any participating

open mess. This new system will provide credit convenience to members anywhere in the Army Mess System, rather than only at a home station. It will reduce operating costs and provide for better internal mess management controls.

The Officers Open Messes of the Sixth United States Army are participating in this test which will be run through March 31, 1972.

Join the Ranks of the Unemployed—If you can't find a job and think remaining in the Army is your perfect answer, think again. New standards for personnel in grades E-4 through E-9 have been established.

Quarterly quotas will be established by grade and MOS to limit the number of reenlistments that can be made in these grades.

DA has established the following guidelines regarding the new program:

- A soldier attaining a PMOS score of 100 or better may reenlist regardless of the ceiling.
- Those with PMOS scores of 70-99 are eligible to reenlist subject to grade and MOS restrictions.
- Individuals with a score of 69 or lower are not authorized to reenlist.
- A soldier whose MOS score is not up-to-date may be retained on active duty until he has taken his test and the score is verified.

Awards time for Fourth Estate—If you've released any top-notch secrets in your unit newspaper within the past year, chances are you won't be eligible to qualify for the Keith L. Ware Annual Awards.

Army newspapers, magazines, radio and television programs will be judged on professional quality, originality and use of available facilities.

All ASA entries have been judged by the Information Division, HQUSASA. ASA winners in each category have been sent to DA for the Army-wide contest.



Don't Get a Raw Deal—The Veterans Administration cautions servicemen who sell their GI loan purchased houses to ask for a "release of liability" before closing the deal. Unless he specifically asks VA for this release and gets it, the service-

man is still responsible for the unpaid balance of the mortgage if the new purchaser misses his monthly payments. Details of "release of liability" and restoration of GI home loan guaranty details are available at any VA office. The VA says the seller should check these details before signing to save himself considerable difficulty and worry.



Every man should learn a trade—You've heard of mini-skirts and mini-bikes, now the Army is offering you mini-job training centers. For the next six months the Army will be selecting up to 1,000 enlisted men per month in Vietnam to receive

Project Transition job training in the States before separation.

Men in grades E-1 through E-6 will be assigned to the job training center nearest their homes for instruction in bricklaying, carpentry, police training and a variety of other occupations or skills suited to the needs and desires of the individual.



Where did it all go?—You may be surprised to learn just how much income you grossed in 1971. For some, the figure may be right at their fingertips. Those smart alecs probably compensated for the added income by setting aside a few coins each month

so tax time wouldn't hurt so much.

Either way, it's that time of year again. And the sooner you get your returns in the mail, the sooner you can quit worrying about it. So get busy and start computing those exemptions and deductions, you may be eligible for a refund.

If you need help, seek it now from your legal assistance officer or a qualified consultant. By avoiding the last minute rush you may also reduce the possibility of a last minute mistake.

Insurance? Yeah, I guess I have it... Don't be a knowit-all and assume all insurance benefits will be extended by the Army after you ETS. Although SGLI extends its life insurance coverage for 120 days after separation, and any medical deficiency or problem existing at the time of ETS can be cared for within 90 days, your health care does not continue. But a short term "cheap" health insurance plan can be purchased, if you are smart enough to look into it. For only \$25, the ex-GI and his dependents can be covered for 90 days. (This does not include pregnancy.)

Many businesses require three months employment before allowing new employees to participate in the company's health plan. So don't assume that upon employment you will be immediately covered.

This form must be submitted five days prior to ETS in order for the \$25 to be deducted from your final pay. Applications are available at the US Army Transfer Point.



pass in review

A roundup of ASA news from Hallmark correspondents



SMA Silas Copeland, left, and CSM John C. Cannon, bid farewell after the Army's highest ranking enlisted man visited the facilities at USASATEC.

Arizona

Ft. Huachuca—Sergeant Major of the Army Silas L. Copeland was welcomed to the USASATEC by Command Sergeant Major John C. Cannon on November 19 for a visit with the personnel of the USASA Test and Evaluation Center, Fort Huachuca, AZ. The Sergeant Major of the Army was given a command briefing and a tour of the facilities. He also witnessed several tests in progress. Upon his departure SMA Copeland remarked, "The personal appearance of the troops and the presentation of the facilities was outstanding".

Texas

303d ASA Bn, Ft. Hood—Two Agency Specialists 4 have pioneered a local effort to organize an ambitious "Big Brother" program. In conjunction with the Boys Club of Killeen, Texas, Charles Gappa and Jeff Johnson worked tirelessly with the program

in its early stages and are now two of its most active participants.

Gappa, assigned to the 371st ASA Co, is a qualified social worker and responsible for coordinating Big Brother Activities with the Army Community Service and the Killeen Boys Club. Specialist Johnson, also with the 371st, works after hours on a volunteer basis.

The program, with 10 Big Brother volunteers mostly from Ft. Hood, is designed to provide fatherless boys in the 7-17 age group with a meaningful male relationship.

As Johnson puts it, "We try to take the boy out of the woman's atmosphere and provide him with a trusting and understanding male companion."

Japan

FS Hakata—Christmas was celebrated on Thanksgiving Day this year by five ASA men who shared over \$41,000 in reenlistment bonuses.

Specialists 5 Ronald G. DeLeon and Michael A. Bena along with Specialists 4 Donald H. Wade, Jerry L. Smith and Clyde McCutcheon will no doubt long remember the Thanksgiving turkey with "cash stuffing".

Turkey

TUSLOG, Det Four (Diogenes Station)—American servicemen are known world wide by their many selfless displays of charity. The men at the Sinop Common Defense Installation recently displayed this quality when they presented a gift of \$83 to the underprivileged grammar school children in the Sinop area.

The money was collected at several religious services and presented to the Sinop School officials by Chaplains (Captains) Turpin Ashurst and John McDonald, with the assistance of post interpreter, Specialist 4 William W. Guitteau.

MUC

Bangkok, Thailand—The 83d Radio Research Special Operations Unit has been awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation medal for distinguishing itself through support of United States objectives in Southeast Asia during the period June 1969 to October 1970.

(Department of the Army General Orders on this award are not yet published.)

Korea

Pyong Taek—When you're outnumbered, as the Marines are at this USASA Field Station, you can either retreat or join forces with the big guys. Rather than jeopardize their enviable record of valor, the 1st Marine Radio Bn opted for the latter.

In a unique and informal ceremony, Captain David J. Ellison, USMC, Commanding Officer of the 21 US Marines attached to FS Korea, presented Lieutenant Colonel W. R. Zoeckler, CO of the station, with the 1st Marine Bn Coat of Arms.

The plaque was for "forward area training", the high point of a joint service training exercise conducted in October and November.



COL W. R. Zoeckler (left) and Marine CPT D. J. Ellison with the 1st Marine Radio Bn coat of arms.



The saddened eyes and distraught faces of M/Sgt. Daniel Pitzer (left) and M/Sgt. Edward R. Johnson are typical of captured American prisoners of war in Southeast Asia. Both men have since been released.



A long overdue release ceremony brings blank stares from these three soldiers. Left to right are Coy Richard Tinsley, Cleveland, Tenn.; James Henry Strickland Jr., Dunn, N.C.; and Willie Arthur Watkins, Sumter, S.C., shown near Tam Ky in January 1969.

Geneva Convention

Bob Hope is the latest victim of Hanoi's hard-nosed attitude on American servicemen who are prisoners of war. Some of these men have been held for years in deprivavation—half starved, ridden with intestinal parasites, suffering from vitamin deficiencies, tuberculosis, mental disorientation and muscular wastage.

Actor Hope, Texas millionaire H. Ross Perot and millions of compassionate Americans have all seen their pleas for information fall on deaf ears.

The Department of Defense can officially account for 357 prisoners, with hundreds more on the missing list. Just how many of the missing are being held is unknown.

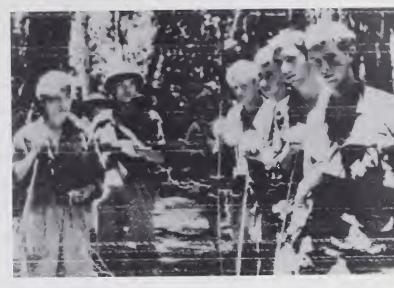
Coping with this unknown factor is hard enough for relatives and friends, but for the prisoners themselves, the 'unknowns' are even more frustrating. Surviving each day is a major task. The question each must live with is: Can I last?

And what about his family . . . will his wife be able to cope with all the problems? Is she well . . . and do the children remember him? The sheer loneliness of his existence is one of the worst aspects of imprisonment.

If these pictures disturb you, there is something you can do. Army personnel are authorized and encouraged to express their opinions in writing to the Viet Cong representative to the Paris Peace Talks.



The crude and unsanitary conditions of POW camps outside North Vietnam are deplorable. Two allied soldiers inspect one such bamboo cage reportedly used to confine Army prisoners of war.



Viet Cong guards make it virtually impossible for prisoners of war to escape. Carefully guarded are (left to right) Sergeants James L. VanBendegom, of Kenosha, Wis.; Nathan B. Henry, of Franklin, N.C.; Richard R. Perricone, of Uniondale, N.Y.; and Stanley A. Newell, of Pekin, III.

Photos Courtesy ARMY NEWS FEATURES

-Viet Cong Style

Use your military rank and title if you wish. But restrict the content of your letters to the humane treatment and release of PW's and compliance with the provisions of the Geneva Convention. Avoid political comments.

Write to:

Madame Nguyen Thi Binh Minister of Foreign Affairs Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam 39 Avenue Georges Mandel Paris 16, France



Sp5 Gary John Guggenberger from Cold Springs, Minn., limps in anguish as he heads toward his unknown destination. He was captured on June 14, 1969.

R AND R REPORT

Ш

USASA sports, recreation and entertainment



Football

FS Hakata—It was way back on Thanksgiving Day 1971 when the Third Annual Turkey Bowl game was held between the Nimble Footed Non-Coms and the Brassy Hot Shots. With one win apiece, the contest was something of a rubber match.

In the photo above, 1SG James W. Wadsworth (ball carrier) makes quick work of 1LT J. D. Grayham on his way to a TD and a lopsided 50-24 victory for the NCOs.

FS Hakata, Japan—Something happened in the Hakata All Stars (Eagles) dressing room at halftime one day last month. Maybe it was a Knute Rockne-style pep talk . . . or it could have been just a cantankerous alarm clock. Either way, the team woke-up during the brief intermission and

looked like an entirely different squad when they took the field for the second half kick-off.

The first 30 minutes of the game was a rout. The Eagles were pushed and shoved into the wrong end of a 20-6 beating by the Misawa All Stars (Jets) during the first annual North-South All Star Game.

In the 3rd quarter, the fired-up Eagles kicked two field goals while holding the Jets scoreless.

In the final period, with the score at 20-12, the Eagles talleyed three TD's, a 2-point conversion, and two safetys for a final score of 41-20.

Captain Jerold Gooding, Staff Sergeant Dennis Drake, and Specialists Four Theola Medley, Paul Fryson and



Cliff Beckwith, the All Star game's MVP, scores another tally for the victorious Hakata Eagles.

Ron Abram were the ASA representatives (Rams) on the Eagle squad.

FS Augsburg, Germany—The flag football team of Hq Co, 502d ASA Gp, achieved an impressive record this season. After 10 victories and only one loss, the team walked off with the 502d Group Commander's Trophy, the ASA Augsburg League Championship, and the Sued Bayern (Southern Bavaria) Support District League Championship.

FS Augsburg—The host team did well enough during the year in local competition, but finally joined the losers' bracket in ASA Europe's annual CG Flag Football tourney in December.

A well-oiled football machine from ASA FS Berlin walked away with the bananas in that one. In the final game of the championship the mighty Berliners murdered a gutsy team from FS Rothwesten, 22-6.

ZOT

FT. Bragg, N.C.—When a young Spec 4 from the 376th ASA Co, 313 ASA Bn (ABN) went home to get married just recently, he broke his ankle right after his new bride tied the knot around it. It worked out well, though. He managed to tag on three weeks recuperation leave to his honeymoon.

MESS HALL

. . . continued from page 3

. . . In any event you will not be turned away without a meal. It may not be what is on the menu or may not be what you really like, but it will be an adequate meal.

Now let's examine the manner in which the food is prepared. The preparation of the food is strictly regulated by the Master Menu for the month. This menu dictates the amount and type of food we are authorized to serve each day. The recipe is also a standard military form and is not changed unless absolutely necessary.

This brings us to the question of greasy food. Grease is a necessary item of many Army recipes and is produced by frying, broiling, or baking many meat products. The point here is that you should evaluate the food after you have eaten it, not as you are watching it being prepared.

The changes that are made are only for your benefit. For example, many days there are desserts prepared that are not on the menu, additional selections of meat, extra milk and numerous other benefits that you probably take for granted. The menu lists what we should be serving and if a dessert is not listed, we are not required to serve it.

If you really want to see what your mess personnel are doing for you,

just check to see how many extras you do receive. Each person is authorized 31 ounces of milk a day. This means that if an individual eats breakfast, he is allowed 7 oz. for his cereal and 8 oz. to drink for each meal. The amount of vegetables authorized for each individual is one level serving spoon. The point here is that numerous individuals take more food than what is authorized, (which is awfully aggravating if you've ever eaten dry cereal). Furthermore, this causes your fellow soldiers to eat a substitute item.

Overall I have been trying to make you aware of some of the problems that we face in serving the food and how you can help us to improve our product. There's a \$25,000 jackpot waiting for some Army man or woman. It's not a gamble. It won't cost you anything to try for it. And luck won't have much to do with winning it. Actually, the Army has been waiting since 1954 to award this grand sum in return for a good suggestion.

This may be your chance to turn a big profit for a good idea. And even if you miss the jackpot, there are plenty of hefty consolation prizes.

The Suggestion Program is an integral part of Army Personnel Administration. Ideas submitted in writing by an individual or group which are intended to accomplish a job better, faster and/or cheaper are eligible for cash awards from \$25 to \$25,000.

Suggestions may also be submitted which would result in intangible savings since ideas that would improve morale, reduce the likelihood of accidents or promote better working conditions may also be worth a cash award.

An unmarried ASA enlisted man won \$25 for approval of his suggestion to authorize four days proceed time regardless of on/off post residence or marital status. (Formerly, married men were granted five days proceed time while a single person was allowed only three days.)

ASA conducts two suggestion campaigns a year—although suggestions may be submitted at any time during the year. The recent November contest proved very successful. Most posts doubled or tripled their normal intake of suggestions during this period.

Many suggestions deal with equipment modifications and operational-type alterations. Some touch a different vein. One recent suggestion involved some unusual research. It read, in part: "A survey was taken of personnel at (station mercifully unnamed) regarding their use of toilet tissue, with the following results:

Folders: 75% Crumplers: 20% Do not use: 5% These percentages were obtained from a sample of 20 randomly chosen people."

On this basis, the researcher suggested that the Army switch from purchasing one-ply toilet tissue to buying the two-ply variety. "Two ply toilet paper is stronger and better suited to folders," he said, adding that a 30 percent savings would result.

Unfortunately, his suggestion was not adopted. But the suggester was urged to re-submit his idea . . . provided he approaches the situation from a different angle.

As long as a complaint or problem exists, there is room for a suggestion. A simple suggestion to place a mat in front of a doorway to reduce clean-up work may put a little cash in your pocket. Or maybe you have a suggestion to eliminate standing in long lines at the finance office. Whatever your complaint—submit a common sense solution in the form of a suggestion. The Suggestion Awards Committee is always on the side of the suggester, and they do their best to aid in adoption of good problem solving ideas.

And why shouldn't they? The Suggestion Program is indeed a profitable one to the Government as well as the suggestor. Tired of crying about it, one ASA Captain suggested that the gas chamber exercise be eliminated. It was—and he received \$680 because the Army projected a combined savings of \$20,988.

Since the program began in 1954 the government has gained substantially, estimating savings of \$74 million a year from adopted suggestions. ASA rarely records under \$250,000 a year in tangible savings. Of all the suggestions received (including those not adopted) benefits to Department of the Army average \$58 for each suggestion processed.

The opportunity for more money in your pocket shouldn't be the only reason to suggest improvement. But a more efficient office and a nicer environment plus a little extra cash...? Sounds pretty good—why not submit your idea today?

Your Idea Isn't Worth Two Cents

(BUT IT MAY BE WORTH \$25,000)

Cash awards are based on the **potential** value of an adopted suggestion. The table below is the format employed when cash awards are a factor. e.g. A suggestion with moderate potential value (including intangible considerations) with strict ASA application, may earn up to \$50. But, if the entire Army will benefit, your wallet may bulge with up to \$400.

	Extent of Application			
Suggestion	Limited	Extended	Broad	General
MODERAIE POTENTIAL VALUE SUBSTANTIAL POTENTIAL VALUE HIGH POTENTIAL VALUE EXCEPTIONAL POTENTIAL VALUE	\$25-50 50-100 100-200 200-400	\$50-100 100-200 200-400 400-1,000	\$100-200 200-400 400-1,000 1,000-2,500	\$200-400 400-1,000 1,000-2,500 2,500-5,000

The Population Avalanche

Americans realize that the underdeveloped nations of the world face a population crisis. In recent years discussion of this "problem" has hit home—the wide open spaces of America are beginning to narrow.

The population bomb and the population explosion are now well known phrases. A bomb explodes and that's that. Perhaps a better term is the population avalanche, a term used by the well known ecologist, Dr. J. Audy. Like an avalanche, the population keeps growing and growing, gaining in speed and potential, and threatens to engulf the world. Someone has compared the earth to a spaceship traveling through the universe with its human crew. The crew must have some optimum size, beyond which crowding will occur.

Some of the problems of crowding are affecting each of us every day. Daily morning and evening traffic jams, unemployment, crowding in schools, high property values, are all due in large part to the avalanche. Birth of unwanted children and large poor families tend to create additional problems for society (e.g., a large welfare burden and crime).

In less affluent countries, overpopulation produces famine and epidemic disease, and leads to mass discontent. Mass discontent is the setting in which revolution, frequently followed by dictatorship, has frequently occurred in the past. And war often follows close behind.

Besides these larger catastrophes, crowding of the environment changes the "quality of life," a phrase now becoming well known. Underground levels in subways and impersonalization of services are current common examples. Synthetic steak and potatoes may be a future example as natural food supplies dwindle. We are also more likely to see frequent examples of dramatic abnormal behavior, for as the mass of people increases, so also does the size of the "lunatic fringe."

From the President on down to city government, from the World Health Organization on down to the personal physician, the importance of some check on the population avalanche has acquired a note of urgency and is being given increased priority. The establishment of birth control clinics and increasing legalization of abortion are partly aimed at this problem. These measures also recognize the desire of many couples to plan their family in accordance with the time, money and desire which they have to raise children.

Every person should consider the problems of the pop-

ulation avalanche in relation to his own life. Were the avalanche to continue completely unchecked, our future generations must ultimately face either imposed population control or one of several natural catastrophes tending to drop the population: massive civil disorder, war, famine or epidemic disease.

by Major Alan W. Stone, MC

Never Make Mistakes

An intelligent and aware adult does not become intelligent and aware overnight. Growth and experience from mistakes transforms an individual into a rational being. "Mistakes should be considered as guideposts..."

Theodore Roosevelt said: "Show me a man who makes no mistakes and I will show you a man who doesn't do things."

We pay a heavy price for fear of failure. It is an obstacle to growth. It assures the progressive narrowing of the personality and prevents exploration and experimentation. There is no learning without some difficulty and some fumbling. If you want to keep learning, you must keep risking failure—all your life.

Fear of failure breeds timidity. It makes people hesitate. It encourages them to turn their backs on challenges and innovation. The issue at stake is not failure itself. It is a question of attitude. A person's attitude can strengthen or destroy him.

If a person regards each mistake as a setback in his struggles for achievement, this is exactly what it will become—a setback. If he looks on mistakes as building blocks, his failures will strengthen him.

The successful person appreciates the fact that failure is nothing more than a state of mind. He believes that the way to greet failure is not with fear, but with curiosity. Why did the mistake happen? How can I best avoid it again?

The person who fears making mistakes too much to risk making them obviously won't make any. But neither will he learn to grow, he will stand still or slide backward. The status of a person who plays it too safe will be in greater jeopardy than that of his more venturesome counterpart.

Mistakes should be considered as guideposts, direction finders in the search for the most elusive of all goals—perfection. Man will always make mistakes so long as he continues to strive for a goal.

(Reprinted from The VANGUARD, Oxfordshire, England)

Ideas and Opinions

"The mind stretched by a new idea never returns to the same dimension."



by R. L. Sowers

Major Sowers, Assistant Signal Officer, HQ, USASAPAC, Hawaii captures another whim and foible of military life in this offering. The third in a series of articles for The Hallmark, his writings have appeared in a number of military and civilian publications.

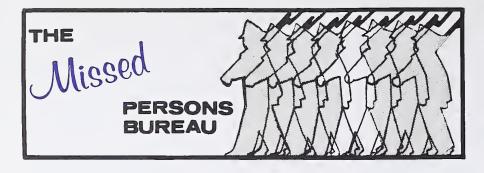
Have you noticed the surge of that dread disease called *Stereofinittis* that is so prevalent in many areas? I have. In fact, it appears to be reaching epidemic proportions around military installations. And worst of all, our medical authorities tell me that there is no known cure. Nevertheless, it is important that everyone be made aware of the terrible symptoms.

Scientists believe the Stereofinittis germ originates, grows, and spreads mainly in Post Exchanges. Evidence of this theory can be supported by observing the casual shopper who, while looking for toothpaste and cigarettes, passes by the shelves holding a plentitude of tape decks, amplifiers, tuners, reverbs, turntables, speakers, and headsets.

His interest soon passes from Ultra-Brite to tweeters. The eyes become glassy. Ears appear to stiffen. His mouth sags as the breathing and pulse rate increases. He stops, panic-stricken, dropping his Ultra-Brite and cigarettes in the aisle. He pays no attention when other customers step on his toothpaste and crunch his Camels. He has now been exposed and infected. The disease quickly spreads completely throughout his body, blanking out any prior rational thoughts of his dwindling bank account. His mind is only conscious of watts, freq response, outputs, power bandwidth, FET circuitry, and woofers. All normal logic has been short circuited.

At this point, the individual is in a pathetic state. Even his poor old mother wouldn't recognize him as he madly turns dials, gurgling and laughing out loud. There is little hope left. Few have made the long journey back to the toothpaste counter to escape their fate.

Most can be seen in the last stages of the disease, carefully lugging huge boxes of equipment out of the door and shouting down the street, "Look out world, I got 250 watts for you to hear!!!"



"Wonder what Werner von Bratwurst is doing since he returned from Hamburg? and how about Francesco Mattagoni? Did he really go into the macaroni business after he retired from ASA?"

These and similar questions were floating around ASA parties during the holiday season. And regular readers of this column often had the answers. Someone may even be wondering what *you* are doing, now that you are no longer 'breaking starch' every day. For these two very good reasons, you ought to check this space every month and keep the Missed Persons Bureau informed of your activities.

Alaska is definitely the place to be.

SFC Henry R. Estle is happy as a penguin yakking away on Yukon Radio in Anchorage. And Chuck Boulden is tough competition for the Detroit Motor Industry. He owns and operates C&Ds Auto Parts in Anchorage. CPT D. Boone Fischer hopes to have luck in his bear trapping expedition north of Fairbanks.

Bridging the generation gap while working at the State of Alaska Youth Center is SFC Earl Drayton. Also in the 49th State, William Lauder is bundled up at the Supply Control Center at Ft. Richardson, and SFC Dean Rogers is stationed at Elmendorf AFB, with the National Security Agency.

SFC Miguel A. Cintron has de-

parted the continental limits. Yauco, Puerto Rico, will soon boast a new service station under the ownership of Miguel who will also be studying Business Administration when all tanks are full.

CPT Walter Hoese and MSG John Kirkpatrick think Maryland is a pretty fine place. At almost any time you may find CPT Hoese flying around Baltimore or looking for his golf balls on a rolling fairway. MSG Kirkpatrick has some different interests. As soon as the weather changes, he'll seldom be without binoculars for he is now a neophyte of the Bel Aire bird watchers.

SP4 James E. Huber, a former Offset Pressman at HQUSASAE, wants a litle change when he leaves the service. He will soon join the student body of a California college.

SFC Kenneth Hicks also will have his nose in the books. He makes his home in Merritt Island, Fla. and is headed toward Brevard Jr. College.

COL Howard G. Comfort is relaxing in his home in Vienna, Va. His future plans include trips to the Rose Bowl, The Indianapolis 500 and on down south to New Orleans to help celebrate the Mardi Gras.

Science & Medicine

Phys-Aids

The job of applying and removing casts, suturing minor lacerations, performing routine physical examinations and taking medical histories will be undertaken less and less by the physician in the near future. Instead, these tasks will be performed by *Physicians Assistants* under the supervision of a medical doctor.

The Physicians Assistant receives his general medical knowledge, necessary to meet Civil Service requirements, through various training programs. These programs, under the direction of Veterans Administration hospitals, train Physician's Assistants in cooperation with 10 colleges and their medical centers.

Three other affiliations under the MEDEX program take men who have qualified in the military as "independent duty" medical corpsmen

and give them three or four months of academic work. They are then placed with physicians for a preceptorship of approximately one year.

'Aspirin Freaks'

It has been estimated that 16 billion aspirin are consumed by Americans each year. This and the fact that it is such an important and common item prompted the National Safety Council to publish a few facts about its use.

- Most family doctors think it's safe to take an aspirin or two to relieve headaches, cramps or minor aches. But if the dosage has to be repeated several times a day for several days, the doctor should be called.
- Never take an aspirin to reduce fever without consulting your doctor.

By doing so you may be masking disease symptoms.

- Be sure to drink a full glass of water when you take aspirin and don't swallow them on an empty stomach. Otherwise you may irritate your stomach.
- Don't take aspirin if you have a stomach ulcer. Aspirin's weak acid can irritate an ulcer.
- Since aspirin deteriorates in the bottle, don't buy more than a two- or three-months' supply. If the tablets in your aspirin bottle have a vinegary smell or crumble in your hands, throw them out.
- Aspirin's greatest danger is its familiarity. There are probably very few medicine cabinets that don't contain a bottle of aspirin. Make sure you keep it well out of the reach of curious, cabinet-exploring young children. Aspirin in large doses can be fatal.

Legion of Merit

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PRIVATE FIRST CLASS: Richard L. Perrin.

Meritorious Service Medal (Posthumously)

SPECIALIST 4: Dane L. Pickens.

Meritorious Service Medal

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CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2: James N. McNaughton, William P. Raines. MASTER SERGEANT: Stanley D. Adams, Edward A. Blackadar, Thomas H. Crigler Jr., George R. Heussler, Raymond I. Janke, Richard E. Phelps, Charles L. Snyder,

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS: Tom Adams Jr., Ronald M. Campbell, James G. Coburn, Claude G. Easton, Donald M. Hoskins, Loyd N. Sybert.

STAFF SERGEANT: Charles C. Caulk, Terry L. Loomis.

SPECIALIST 5: Walter G. Turner.

Retirements

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LIEUTENANT COLONEL: James R. Clapper, Henry J. LaBrecque, Fred G. Laine, Edward F. Tighe.

MAJOR: William A. Fritz, Rcihard L. Kerr, Robert E. Medlin, Thomas Stokes

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3: Morris L. Ritter.

"gobbledygook"

Are you well versed in the "gobbledy-gook" style of writing? Try translating and identifying the authors of the following quotations:

- 1. An ultimate end to corporeal existence is preferred to continued viability without the attendant liberties generally associated with the rights of a free people.
- 2. After assuring yourself that all pertinent procedures and preparations have been accomplished, permission is granted to initiate the overall implementation of combat operations.
- 3. The full combat potentials available to me have not been effectuated at this point in time.
- 4. Success in battle is based on timely arrival on the field in advance of the enemy, in accord with the principle of war that calls for a preponderance of mass.

Answers:

- 1. Patrick Henry: Give me liberty or give me death.
- 2. Adm. George Dewey: You may fire when ready, Gridley.
- 3. John Paul Jones: I have not yet begun to fight.
- 4. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest: Get there fustest with the mostest.

(Reprint from the AUTEC Soundings, HQ West Palm Beach, Fla.)





Drugs, drugs, drugs...the whole nation and each service is saturated with material on the subject. If you are an addict it obviously did no good.

And it's too late now even if you're listening, because you know your private hell better than anyone. But, you could be of some help. You could step forward and identify yourself. You could help yourself and perhaps persuade some of those now teetering on the brink of curiosity to halt before they fall.

By now you know about the no-punishment policy that is service-wide. No one is going to give you any disciplinary action or boot you out of the service with a bad discharge solely for use if you accept amnesty now.

By simply stepping forward you will be underwriting the basic premise that drug abuse itself is a bummer.

Now we're holding out our hand to help, will you take it? (AFPS Editorial)